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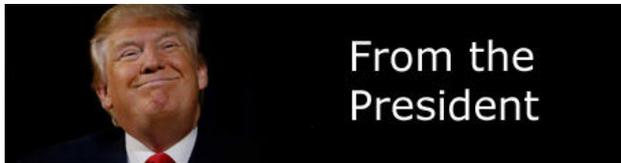
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Dear Fellow Members

Happy New Year 2017! May your new year bring prosperity and more friendship. I sincerely hope members have enjoyed their festive time off with family and friends, and how time has passed since our last newsletter and catch up.

The Christmas break-up at Thornbury was well received by 15 members whom attended. Short numbers, but the interaction was great and personally it is always great talk with Gavin Grey and to hear passed stories from Keith Whitney (only to name a few). Major thanks to Bryce Clarke who organised the venue and Ben Briggs who payed the bill. It was also lovely to interact with many fellow students from ASPT, it was almost a reunion.

With no General Meeting since our AGM in October, the committee has come together twice over the festive season. The Committee is working on improving the website and making a welcome pack for individuals who join the guild. We have talked lightly on the convention in 2019; and most recently the survey to Guild Members. More updates on

some of these matters will come up later in the year.

Obviously since our last newsletter, the survey has run its race and is now completed. Thank you to all members who has helped shape our Guild and after receiving the results, I'm personally surprised with the data we have collected. Some fantastic encouraging comments were made, plus constructive criticisms were just to name a few things that I really appreciate. This data will be put together and used to shape our guild for the future. More on this in the coming General Meeting.

Our next Meeting is at Piano Point: 19 Hawker Street, Airport West. We will be hosting Mr Paul Walshe from *Beyondblue* on Mental Health Awareness: looking after one another. Then a tool sale on behalf of Life Member W. Dalton. Anyone interested in selling tools are welcomed, however must contact myself by the 20th of Feb to arrange terms and catalogue your items. I'm very much looking forward to this upcoming event, I encourage all members/non-members to attend.

Vale David Bloom

Full Member David Bloom passed away peacefully in his sleep, on Friday the 10th of February 2017 after a heroic four year battle with Motor Neurone Disease (MND). David has been a long term member with the guild since joining in the late 80's, but of recent years retired due to poor health.

Our deepest sympathy to David's partner Ross during this difficult time.

**Yours Sincerely,
Bradley Saul – PTTGV President**



David Bloom, a member of the guild for many years died on Friday 10th February 2017 after an heroic battle with Motor Neurone Disease.

Although a qualified pastry cook David decided to change careers in 1985. He enrolled in a piano tuning course at the NSW Conservatorium of Music in Sydney and became qualified in early 1986. For the next few years he worked restoring and refurbishing pianos at Robert Rogerie's Hawthorn workshop and during this time gradually built up his piano tuning business. By the year 2010 the charm of "dinging away on pianos" as he put it, had waned, and he began making plans to wind back on the tuning side of the business and follow his real passion "piano restoration". David was diagnosed with the disease in October 2012 and by early 2013 he had to stop work. When he announced to his clients that he was ceasing work there was a huge and compassionate response. It seems that his work was quite highly regarded and he was warmly embraced by them. Many of the clients continued to keep contact with David as his health continued to decline and quite a few attended his funeral service. He was just 56 years old and died far too young.





From the Editor

Look after your back! Seems obvious, but I am reminded of our presentation on Alexander Technique.

Yes, I had most of the week off work because I could barely stand up. Or sit down. How did I do this? *Mowing the lawn*. On a ride on mower! And no, a ride on mower is not significantly easier than a push mower; it can be a real workout. But definitely quicker - unless you do your back.

Lesson – warm up and stretch, every time. Especially when about to do a day on pianos! Or the mower.

So now back to keep all those customers happy.

Remember also this is your newsletter, if there is a particular issue or technical area you would like discussed be sure to ask! Also there is a tremendous wealth of experience in your Guild, you may have something technical yourself that you would like to contribute.

Cliff Meakin ARPT



Diary Dates

Conventions

JULY 12- 15th 2017.
60TH ANNUAL PTG CONVENTION & TECHNICAL INSTITUTE
2017 International Association of Piano Builders and Technicians (IAPBT)
[Doubletree Union Station Hotel, St. Louis, MO](http://www.doubletreeunionstation.com)
Contact: Sandy Roady
sandy@ptg.org, 913-432-9975

OCTOBER 17th – 19th 2017.

APTTA “LETSBESHARP” PIANO CONVENTION – Hosted by SOUTH AUSTRALIA GUILD.
Stamford Grand Hotel at Glenelg. South Australia. Website - www.stamford.com.au/sga
Contact: Brenton Jenkins - letsbesharp2017@gmail.com to register your expression of interest.

DIARY DATES 2017 PTTGVIC

Saturday 25th February – Presentation: Mental Health Awareness / Tool Auction. Piano Point 19 Hawker Street. Airport West.

Monday 10th April – Meeting / Presentation: Melbourne Piano Sales. TBA

Saturday 20th May – ARPT Exams (Please contact Christopher Streader for enquires)

12- 15th July – 60th Annual PTG IAPBT Convention 2017. St Louis, MO.



Monday 17th July – Presentation: (Bernies Music Land) TBA

Saturday 26th August – Workshop: Polishing seminar/ Damp Chaser TBA : (PP) TBA

Sunday Sep 24th – Planning Day (executive meeting only).

Monday Oct 09th – AGM at QPO, 186 High Street (Cnr High & Cotham Road) Kew. TBA

17th – 19th October. – APTTA Convention “Lets be Sharp”.

Saturday 25th November – Presentation TBA

Out and About....

The President, Committee and Members of the Guild extend their congratulations to Secretary Bryce Clarke ARPT and his partner Beth, whom are expecting their first child in July. Our sincere congratulations and wishing you both the best for the upcoming future.

If you have any news you wish to including in this column such as; anniversary milestones, birthdays or interesting facts about members. Please submit to the editor.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO GAIN ARPT STATUS?

If you would like to have your skills and knowledge of piano technology recognised then consider joining the Piano Tuners and Technicians Guild, Victoria as a Provisional member. As a Provisional member you will be eligible to sit for the ARPT accreditation examinations in May and November of any year.

Membership of the Guild provides opportunities for piano technicians to gather and exchange information and to develop and refine their piano tuning and piano technology skills. Provision of piano related services to the community is very much a sole practice; the Guild provides a forum whereby issues within the industry can be readily discussed with your colleagues.

We are currently developing a self-assessment process based on the ARPT accreditation competencies. A Provisional member study group will be formed to assist all members wishing to gain accreditation based on the gaps identified through the self-assessment process. This assistance may take the form of mentoring or training within the technical sessions run throughout the year.

If you are interested please contact Roger Turney on 0410514069 to discuss further.

ARPT EXAMS: Saturday 20th of May 2017.

Please contact Mr Christopher Streader ARPT for more details.



Piano Tuners & Technicians Guild of Victoria.

...Presents...

Presentation Seminar & Tool Sale

Saturday 25th February 2017 @ 9:30am (10pm Start)

@ Piano Point Warehouse:
19 Hawker Street, Airport West. Vic.

Supper/Lunch Provided 

Starting at 10am the guild will have a general meeting.

Meeting Agenda: To except Minutes & Correspondence - B. Clarke
Treasury Report - B. Briggs
Website Report - C. Meakin
Provisional Report - R. Turney
President Report (including recent survey) - B. Saul
General Business -
Membership Applications from J. Crickmay and C. McCrae
Close Meeting.

Mental Health Awareness Guest Speaker: Paul Walshe from beyondblue.

Your health is important to us... let's look after and talk to one another when things are low.



Paul Walshe - passed Detective Sergeant with Victoria police for 17 years and Ambassador from Beyondblue, will give a talk about his personal experience and highlight the importance of family, colleague/friends or supporting networks.

Tool's Sale on Behalf of Life Member W. Dalton ARPT

Any members wishing to sell tools are welcomed to; please contact Bradley on 0408 325 089 before Monday 20th of February to confirm your details. Buyers/Sales rules apply for non-profit on the day. Inspection and registration stars at 9:30am

NON - MEMBERS COST: \$10.00

PTTGV MEMBERS: FREE





Australasian Convention 2017

Adelaide

October 17-19

Our motto

Let's Bsharp 2017

The convention will be held at the resort-style Stamford Grand Adelaide, which is located on absolute beachfront in Glenelg, just a 10 minute drive from the airport, and a 20 minute drive from Adelaide's CBD.

The first/last tram stop is right next to the hotel, which can take you straight into the centre of Adelaide CBD.

Glenelg has a vibrant seaside-shopping precinct, which reflects the casual lifestyle and relaxing atmosphere of life by the sea.





Ok – the last laugh.

I got called back to a house because the piano I tuned was sounding terrible. I was a bit surprised but of course made a time to go back ASAP. I checked over the piano and essentially could not find anything wrong. Maybe tighten up a unison, maybe, but I couldn't get it significantly better. So then the father made the kid play the piano to prove how out of tune it was. And of course the kid was reading music, and also learning the piece, without paying any attention to the accidentals... *Cliff Meakin ARPT*

